

Remarks

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-5 based on §102(e) as anticipated by Adams, according to the Examiner, "Adams I appears silent on the type of wire used and the tensile strength of said wire in the specific embodiments cited above, but gives examples in other embodiments that uses a type of wire, 304 stainless steel, that can be produced with the desired tensile strength (col. 25, lines 40-68)."

It is respectfully submitted that the 102 rejection is not proper and should be removed because "Adams I appears silent on the type of wire used" and the fact that 304 stainless steel can be produced with the desired tensile strength does not make it inherent.

With regard to the 103 rejection, the Examiner has cited Adams II for the proposition that it is well known to make the coarser screens (i.e., wire mesh ranges of <32) of stainless steel (col. 6, lines 23-65). The examiner cites Van den Syne et al. for the proposition that "stainless steel wires with wire diameters in the 300 series, similar to those claimed, can be produced well above 200,00 psi (col. 4, lines 64; col. 5, line 28; col. 9, 10 see table), thus, it is implicit that 304 type stainless steel can be produced with a tensile strength at least 200,00 psi."

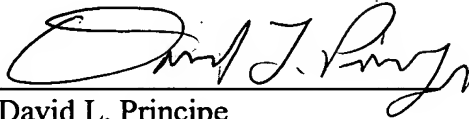
The Adams I and II references describe screens for use with vibratory screening apparatuses but do not disclose the materials in the claimed method of sorting product. The Syne reference discloses a method for improving the strength of wire or strip but does not make reference to screens or sorting product.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no suggestion in the prior art to use stainless steel screens instead of medium to high carbon steel in sorting granular products that are not food grade or corrosive to steel (as claimed in amended Claim 1).

With regard to Claims 3-5, the claims are intended to be directed to a method of sorting and not product-by-process. The claims have been amended as such.

Please charge any fees due with this Response to Deposit Account No. 08-2442.

Respectfully submitted,

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